

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 11-22 and 24-28 are pending in the present application. Claims 24-28 have been rejected and claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8 and 11-22 have been allowed. Claims 24-28 are cancelled herein.

Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chow (U.S. Pat. No. 6,167,910) in view of Arnold et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,210,986 B1). It is asserted in support of the instant rejection that although the device disclosed by Chow differs from the claimed invention in that the sidewalls of the channels are not defined by a gap between two pieces of material, but rather formed by etching grooves into individual substrates, Arnold et al. disclose a microfluidic device comprising multi-layered channels (see Fig. 6C), the channels having sidewalls defined by a gap between two pieces of spacers 230. It is further asserted that Arnold et al. disclose that etching produces channels that are wider at the top than at the bottom whereas channels formed by spacers exhibit a more uniform width and that in light of this it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to form the channels disclosed by Chow using spacers rather than etching. Claims 25 and 26 were also rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chow in view of Arnold et al. as applied to claim 24, and further in view of Ekström et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,376,252) and Yager et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,482,306 B1), respectively. Claims 27 and 28 were further rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chow in view of Arnold et al. and Yager et al. as applied to claim 26, and further in view of Oloman et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,118,305).

The rejected claims 24-28 are cancelled herein, mooting the instant rejection.

The remaining claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8 and 11-22 were allowed, which the applicant gratefully acknowledges.

Conclusion

Applicant has filed a complete response to the outstanding Office Action and respectfully submits that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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